Vienna University Library (VUL): Your Research Partner

Welcome Days for PhD candidates, Winter Term 2025

Anna Krenn, VUL

Brief personal introduction

Anna Krenn
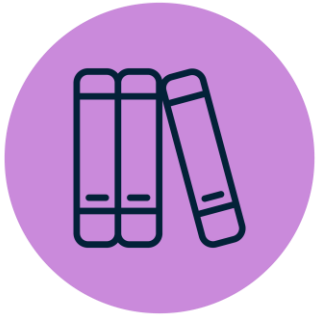
Team Teaching Library, VUL

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Find my courses on: u:rise

Portrait Picture © Anna Krenn / Vienna University Library .

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About us

Getting to know the Library

The Vienna University Library is…

- … the oldest university library in the German-speaking area (Founded 1365).

- … the largest library in Austria
  - Main library in the main building
  - 36 Special libraries
  - University Archive

Facts and figures

Library statistics (2024):

Access to the latest scientific knowledge: Over 150.000 e-journals

7.7 million books:
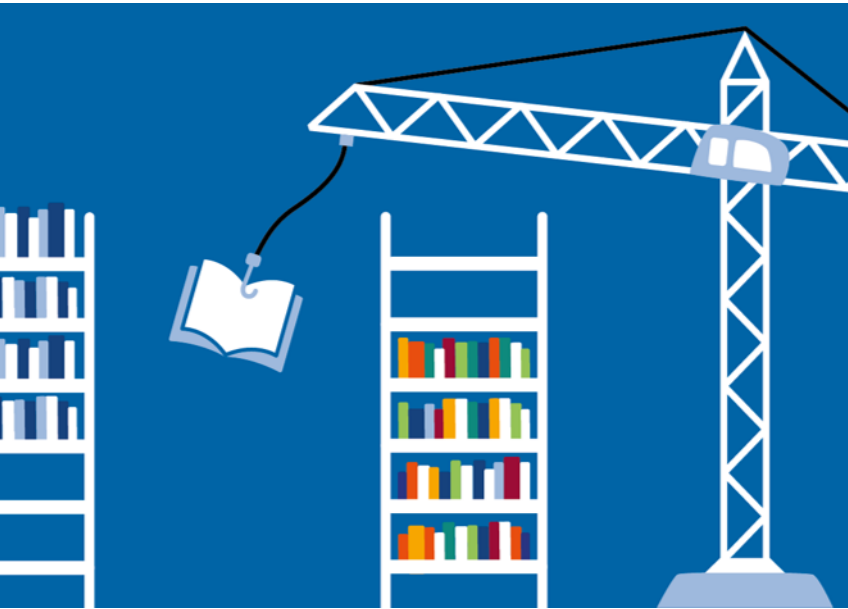2.9 million books in the main library
4.7 books in the special libraries

Oldest book: Bible from the Dorothean monastery (1392)

2 million e-books

4X the height of Mount Everest in physical book stacks

600 databases

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Main Library

Grafik Umbau © Vienna University Library

Main Library - University Library

- central lending library; all subjects covered; various collections and reading rooms
- currently undergoing a renovation process to be concluded in spring/summer 2027

Renovation of the Main Library - Vienna University Library

Special Libraries

FB Anglistik, Universitätsbibliothek Wien. © Universität Wien / Franz Pfluegl

Specialized support near departments and faculties via "Special Libraries":

- Find out about who your librarian is

- Find out about recommendations concerning resources (e.g. databases, e-journals)

- Find out about library infrastructure and local support (e.g. workshops)

- Find out about local regulations

First steps

Check out our website!
University Library - University of Vienna

1

Remember your u:account! Students with a u:card already have a valid library card

2

Check information for first-year students!
Information for First-Year Students - Vienna University Library

3

Get to know your local library infrastructure! Check out the list of special libraries:
List of Library Locations - Vienna University Library

4

Take part in a library workshop or library tour! Information on program, dates and booking on u:rise:
Vienna University Library Course Page on u:rise

5

u:search

The Library Search Engine

What is u:search?

Institut für Publizistik- und Kommunikationswissenschaft © Universität Wien / Barbara Mair

u:search is the central search engine of Vienna University Library, with which you can search and find most of the available media.

You can also use u:search to:

- order or reserve items

- access e-resources (e-books, e-journals, databases, etc.)

- view your library account

- save search results to your bookmarks

u:search in a nutshell
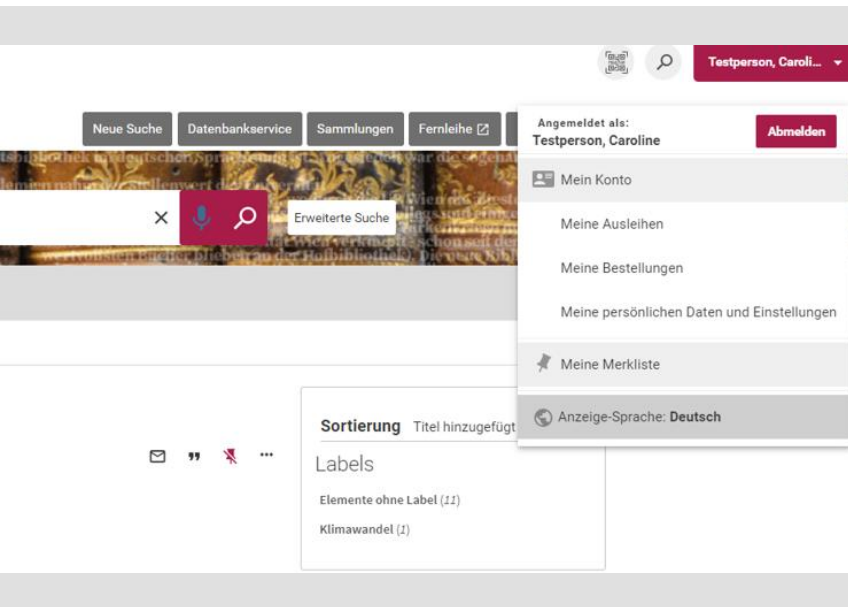
What can you find with u:search?

- Books and other media such as journals, university publications, audiovisual media and, in some cases, articles,
- print collections and e-resources,
- media from all library locations of the University of Vienna (main library, the special libraries and the University Archives)
- an overview of all databases available at Vienna University Library.

What **can't** you find with u:search?

- Unfortunately, older literature is not always fully catalogued online
- Even older volumes of journals, newspapers or series are not always fully indexed
- u:search will not, of course, find any items that are not held by the University Library.
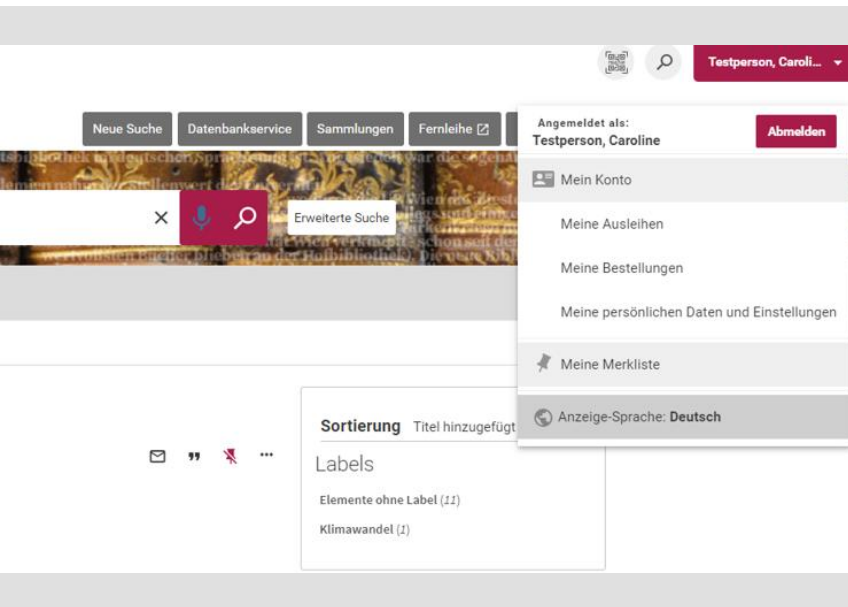
Sign in (1)

Screenshot u:search

You can log in with your u:account under "Sign in". Sign in button and drop-down menu in the top right corner of u:search.

- Students and staff of the University of Vienna are automatically logged in to u:access

- u:access allows members of the university to access licensed e-resources from outside the university.

Sign in (2)

After logging in, you will find several options in the drop-down menu at the top right corner next to your name.

You can go to

- My Account

- My Loans My Requests

- Saved records.

- You can also change the language of the search interface to English/German.

Five Tips for u:search

1. Sign in

Log in to your u:account at the start of your research. This will allow you to view loan information, request or reserve books and access e-resources via u:access.

2. Advanced Search

For a change of pace, try using the Advanced Search feature for your search. This allows you to enter more complex searches and get more precise results.

3. Filter

Reduce (too) long result lists by using one or more filters. For example, if you are looking for recent articles from scientific journals, you can select the three filters Peer-reviewed journals, Article and Creation date.

4. Detail view

Click on the hits in the results list to view the detail view. Reading the 'small print' about a work will help you to decide whether or not it is relevant to you. You will also find the button to request/reserve a book or the link to the full-text in the detail view.

5. Saved records

As you search, save interesting hits to your saved records by clicking the pin icon to quickly find these search results again later. You can also add custom labels to your saved records to help you organise your searches, such as subject headings or to-do items like "Study chapter 3".

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Borrowing, renewing, ordering

- Most loanable items can be borrowed for up to 12 months – if nobody else places a hold (Exception: weekend, overnight)
- Guaranteed period: 14 days
- Automatic renewal for 14-days for a maximum period of up to 12 months– if nobody else places a hold (Exception: weekend, overnight)

Placing a hold on items

- You can place a hold to be next in line for an item on loan

- Find item on library shelf OR pre-order item and collect it from a library counter: information via u:search, the library search engine, after you have signed in

u:access: Accessing E-Resources

u:access - Vienna University Library

- u:access allows you access to VUL e-resources by logging in via your u:account
- Sign in to u:search = sign in u:access
- Check whether u:access forms part of the URL of a resource
- To activate u:access if you have already connected to a licensed resource, we recommend installing the u:access bookmark.

Other Research Tools & Library Cataolgues

E-journals, Databases, Inter-library Loan

E-journals

E-journals are also listed in the [Electronic Journals Library (EZB) ↗](). The EZB is a reference tool for scholarly e-journals and uses traffic light colours to indicate access to full-text.

- Green journals are open access.

- Yellow journals are licensed by the Vienna University Library and accessible via [u:access.]()

- Red journals are not licensed and therefore full-text access is not possible. However, it is often possible to view tables of contents and abstracts.

- For journals with the EUR symbol €, individual articles can be used for a fee.

Databases

Databases contain comprehensive bibliographic information and allow, among other things, searches for dependent publications such as articles in journals and anthologies.

- Each subject area has its own databases.

- Databases often differ in terms of the period covered, the journals analysed, the search options, the thesauri used, and so on.

- An overview of all the databases available can be found in the Database Service.

- The Websites of subject libraries

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Academic theses and consortium catalogue

Academic theses of the University of Vienna can also be searched for in u:theses.

- u:theses is a repository of theses that have been positively evaluated at the University of Vienna since 2008.

- If the authors agree, the theses can also be offered for download in digital form.

Media from many other Austrian libraries can be searched using the Austrian Library Network Search Engine ↗.

- The consortium catalogue is an Austria-wide media search engine. It searches the holdings of the Austrian Library Network's members, such as the Austrian National Library, university libraries, libraries of Fachhochschulen and many more.

- You can request any hits you find via the inter-library loan service for a fee.

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Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog

Via the [KVK - Karlsruher Virtueller Katalog (Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog) ↗](#)

- you can search for **media from international libraries** and order them via inter-library loan.

- The KVK does not contain any records of its own, but forwards your search query to all selected library catalogues, lists of open access media, bookshops and antiquarian bookshops.

- Please read the [KVK's help and FAQs (in German) ↗](#).

Historic Literature

Unfortunately, **historic literature** from the University Library is not always fully catalogued online in u:search.

For these holdings, scanned historical catalogues are available, such as the main library's author index until 1931 (in German).

> The old handwritten volume catalogue has been scanned and made available through the KatZoom catalogue. To use the catalogue, please refer to the search help (in German) and rules and regulartory criteria (in German). You can order works you have found using the online request form for requesting uncatalogued items.

If source not available from Vienna University Library

- Find in **other academic libraries in Vienna** with the help of the Austrian Union catalogues/search engine: https://www.obvsg.at/en/catalogues/consortium-catalogues/

- **Interlibrary Loans** - https://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/en/fernleihe.html
  - ILL applicable if items not available in Vienna (see other libraries in Vienna first) but available from other Austrian or European libraries
  - Find item outside Vienna/Austria, e.g. with the help of the KVK https://kvk.bibliothek.kit.edu/
  - Order loans of books/copies of articles via form in u:search
  - ILL will continue undisturbed by renovation work

- **Acquisition Suggestions** for books to libraries: https://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/en/ankaufsvorschlaege.html

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Other libraries in Vienna it might be useful to join (NOT part of VUL)

- Austrian National Library: https://www.onb.ac.at/en/

- Other university libraries in Vienna, e.g.:
  - University of Applied Arts library https://www.dieangewandte.at/jart/prj3/angewandte-2016/main.jart?rel=en&content-id=1457609271515&reserve-mode=active
  - TU (Technical University) library http://www.ub.tuwien.ac.at/eng/
  - MDW (University of Music and Performing Arts) library https://www.mdw.ac.at/bib/
  - Medical University Vienna library https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/web/en/about-us/organisation/organisational-units-with-special-service-function/university-library/
  - Veterinary Medicine library https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/bibliothek/
  - BOKU (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences) library https://www.boku.ac.at/en/bib/
  - WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) library https://www.wu.ac.at/en/library

- Vienna Public Library (Büchereien Wien): https://buechereien.wien.gv.at/

- Vienna City Library (Wienbibliothek im Rathaus): https://www.wienbibliothek.at/english

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Further Information

Research Support Services, Library Instruction, Helpdesk

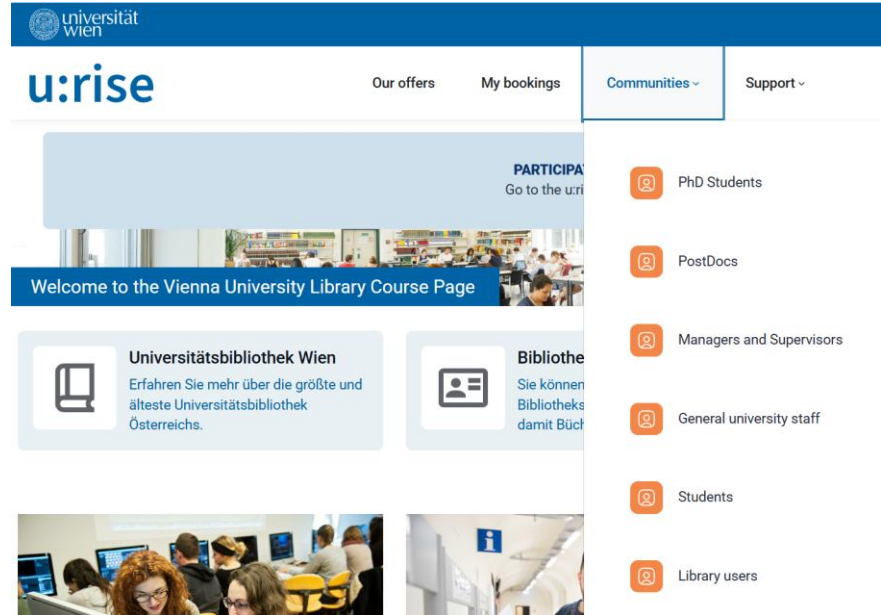# Research Support Services of the Vienna University Library

Research Support Services of the Vienna University Library © Vienna University Library

The research support services of the Vienna University Library provide information about their offers. We offer you a wide range of services, including research planning, research data management, open access and publication strategies.

Video: Research Support Services of the Vienna University Library (2021)

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Library instruction

- Relevant instruction sessions held by librarians specifically for PhD candidates can be found on VUL Course Page on u:rise!

- You may find other relevant instruction sessions in the pages for students, for researchers and for teachers

- Check out the Community Page for PHD-Students on u:rise!

Helpdesk

Our staff provides assistance if you have any questions regarding our services and the library resources.

You can reach us for written inquiries by e-mail at helpdesk.ub@univie.ac.at.

During the semester, you can also reach us by telephone (+43-1-4277-15140) during the following times:

- Monday to Thursday 9:00am - 5:00pm
- Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm
- During the holidays, you can reach us Monday to Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm.

Questions?

Contact: anna.krenn@univie.ac.at